

In the Claims:

The following listing reflects amendments to the claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method for detecting an analyte in a sample comprising:
delivering a buffer to a test strip to prewet the test strip, wherein said test strip comprises
(i) a buffer addition zone, (ii) a sample addition zone, (iii) one or more test zones positioned
between the buffer addition zone and the sample addition zone wherein at least one of the test
zones includes a first analyte binding agent immobilized therein which binds to analyte in the
sample, and (iv) a terminal buffer flow zone positioned between the one or more test zones and
the sample addition zone, wherein ~~which causes a distal diffusion front of the buffer to~~ (a)
~~diffuse in a distal direction~~ diffuses to one or more test zones, ~~at least one of the test zones~~
~~including a first analyte binding agent immobilized therein which binds to analyte in the sample,~~
(b) ~~diffuse~~ diffuses to a the terminal buffer flow zone ~~distal to the one or more test zones, change~~
changes direction and (c) ~~diffuse to a position proximal to~~ diffuses past the one or more test
zones;

delivering a sample to the sample addition zone of the test strip at a position distal to the
~~terminal buffer flow zone~~, delivery of the sample causing analyte in the sample to diffuse
~~proximally~~ past the terminal buffer flow zone to the one or more test zones after the ~~distal~~
~~diffusion front of the buffer~~ diffuses ~~proximal to~~ past the one or more test zones, the analyte
binding to the first analyte binding agent and becoming immobilized in the test zones; and
detecting the analyte immobilized in the test zones.

29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the method further
comprises detecting a second analyte binding agent and the test strip further includes a second

analyte binding agent which is capable of binding to the analyte, wherein said second analyte binding agent is positioned in the sample addition zone or in a zone between the sample addition zone and a zone distal to the terminal buffer flow zone which includes a second analyte binding agent which is capable of binding to the analyte,

addition of the sample causing the second analyte binding agent to bind to analyte in the sample, binding of the analyte to the first analyte binding agent causing the second analyte binding agent to be immobilized in the test zones, and

detecting the analyte immobilized in the test zones comprising detecting the second analyte binding agent.

30. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 29 wherein the method comprises ~~second analyte binding agent is labeled with a detectable marker and detecting a detectable marker on the second analyte binding agent comprises detecting the detectable marker.~~

31. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 29 wherein the method comprises ~~second analyte binding agent is attached to a particle and detecting a particle to which the second analyte binding agent comprises detecting the particle is attached.~~

32-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has a volume between ~~about~~ 10 and 250 μL .

37. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has a volume between ~~about~~ 20 and 200 μL .

38. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has a volume between ~~about~~ 20 and 100 μL .

39. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has a volume between ~~about~~ 40 and 60 μ L.

40-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A method according to claim 28 wherein the buffer delivered to the buffer addition zone has substantially the same fluid flow characteristics within the test strip as the sample delivered to the sample addition zone.

43. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the method further comprises detecting a control agent and wherein the test zones further include a first control zone with a control binding agent immobilized therein, and a second control zone with a same control binding agent immobilized therein as the first control zone, the first and second control zones containing a different amount of the control binding agent immobilized therein.

44. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the method further comprises detecting a control agent and wherein the test zones further include a first control zone with a control binding agent immobilized therein, and a second control zone with a same control binding agent immobilized therein as the first control zone, the first and second control zones containing about the same amount of the control binding agent immobilized therein.

45. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the method further comprises detecting a control agent and the test zones further include first and second control zones each with a control binding agent immobilized therein, the first ~~test and second control zone being proximal to the test zone including~~ zones positioned adjacent to and on each side of the first analyte binding agent, ~~the second control zone being distal to the test zone including the first analyte binding agent.~~

46-63. (Cancelled)